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MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release:

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D.O.T. TO START ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL

The Monroe County Department of Transportation today announced plans to begin application of roadside herbicides to selected guiderail locations and sign posts on county highways.

The County manages roadside vegetation biologically, mechanically and chemically to keep its highways safe. Neglected roadsides eventually create massive overgrowth that block lines of vision to signs, guiderails, intersections, other vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. In addition, undesirable plant species can grow large, creating a hazard in the vehicle recovery area, and strong root systems break apart pavement along the edge of the road.

"Maintaining our roadsides is essential to providing a safe travel way to vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic using the county highway system," said Terrence Rice, director, Monroe County Department of Transportation. "Mechanical removal is not always an option and therefore alternative measures are taken to address the situation responsibly."

To manage roadside vegetation along 38 miles of guiderail on Monroe County roads in the Greater Rochester area, the Department of Transportation takes a biological, proactive approach to minimize the need for control by establishing desirable vegetation during construction projects. The grasses are maintained primarily by mechanical methods, including mowing and tree trimming/removal projects. The 2.5% of county highways that cannot be controlled by mechanical means are treated chemically. These areas, primarily under and behind guiderails, are often sprayed with a hand-held applicator.

This project will be executed in compliance with the New York State Department of Transportation's Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, which includes approved methods of control and tactics to minimize the need for control as outlined in the Department's Environmental Initiative. The State D.O.T. has a toll-free hotline for county residents to find out if there are plans to spray in their area: 1 (877) 201-8762.

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*For further information, call:
Communications and Special Events, 428-2380*

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